Harijan Hostel for Tiruvannamalai

* 2665 *Q.*—SRI R. THANGAVELU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation, dated 7th January 1954, from Sri R. Thangavelu, M.L.A., in his letter, dated 7th January 1954, requesting them to run a Harijan Hostel at Tiruvannamalai, North Arcot district; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Suitable instructions were issued to the Director of Harijans Welfare. He has now reported that orders have been issued for the opening of a hostel at Tiruvannamalai during the current school year, 1955–56.

Pay and service conditions of the Police personnel

* 2666 *Q.*—SRI C. KANDASAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the scales of pay and service conditions applicable to the City Police personnel were brought on a par with those of the mufassal Police personnel in 1947;

(*b*) if so, whether the service conditions and scales of pay of those recruited before 1947 were also changed.

(*c*) whether there are any special conditions of recruitment for those who are enlisted to the Madras City Police; and

(*d*) if so what they are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) & (*b*) The scales of pay and the conditions of service of the City Police personnel were not altered in 1947. The scales of pay and conditions of service of both the Madras City Police and the District Executive Force have been the same since 1st April 1929.

(*c*) No, Sir.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Conference of District Board Presidents

* 2667 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a Conference of District Board Presidents, of this State was held early in March 1955 in the Secretariat;

(*b*) if so, whether the decision of the Conference has been communicated to the Government; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes. A Conference of Presidents of District Boards and certain Departmental officials was held on the 5th and 6th March 1955 at the Secretariat.

(b) The Government themselves convened this Conference, prepared the agenda and recorded the conclusions. There was no decision as such on any points as the Conference was called primarily for consultation and advice; and

(c) action has been taken on all agreed suggestions.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know with what object the Government called this Conference and how far they have succeeded in that object?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The main items on the Agenda for the Conference were the following: (1) Active participation by District Boards in the implementation of the Community Development and Local Development Works programme and the meeting of institution sponsored thereunder. (2) Maintenance of works executed under the National Extension Service, Community Project and Local Development Works Programme. These and other items were thoroughly discussed and conclusions had been arrived at unanimously in several cases and all these conclusions are being implemented.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know whether there was any discussion about the reorganization of district boards and whether the resolution was passed at that meeting or conclusion arrived at?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not think that that subject was discussed at this conference.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : What are the objects which are so important as to call for a conference at a Governmental level?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have already mentioned the two main items on the Agenda, viz., active participation by district boards in the implementation of the Community Development and the Local Development Programmes and the maintenance of works that have been undertaken with the contribution of the people.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : May I know whether the Government have issued any instruction after this conference, that the contribution of the District Board should not be more than 25 per cent of the total estimate?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir, that was the understanding arrived at at that conference, that the district board may be permitted to contribute up to 25 per cent.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : May I know whether the Government have got any proposal under consideration for the revival of taluk boards and for the reorganization of district boards?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question to my colleague in charge of Local Administration.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : The Hon. Minister was stating that agreed proposals were implemented and that means, it can be presumed that there were also some proposals which were not agreed to. May I know, whether the request of the majority of the Presidents of District Boards that the district board roads be taken over by the Government and treated as 'Provincial Road's, has been accepted by the Government and if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not think that subject was discussed at this conference.

Recovery of cost of articles lost in Government Hospitals

* 2668 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that whenever linen and other articles are lost in the Government Hospitals, the low paid employees are asked to pay the cost of such lost articles compulsorily without any enquiry whatsoever by the Superintendents of the hospitals; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposals to stop this kind of collective fines upon such hospital employees?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (a) Recoveries are effected from the persons responsible in the wards after due enquiry;

(b) Does not arise.

Lands for grazing purposes

* 2669 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to starred question No. 1643 on 26th March 1955—

(a) whether the Board of Revenue has submitted any report to the Government regarding the reservation of lands for grazing purposes in villages where there are no such lands now; and

(b) if so, what the recommendations are?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Board of Revenue are the following :—

(1) The villagers should be encouraged to raise grass farms in unobjectionable wastes and they should be assigned Government porambokes or Government wastes for the same purpose.